

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 CG-00 EB-11

RSR-01 /091 W

----- 028874

R 270715 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0613

INFO CNO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

NAVELEXSYSCOM PME 119

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

USDAO CANBERRA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: STATUS OF GOA CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT OMEGA

REF: A) MELBOURNE 0252 (NOTAL) B) CANBERRA 1584

1. STORIES IN SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN PAPERS MARCH 27 REPORT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM HAS DECIDED TO HAVE OMEGA PROPOSAL CONSIDERED BY DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF ALP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP BEFORE PRESENTATION TO CABINET. THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE A TACTICAL MOVE, PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE RESOLUTION BY ALP VICTORIAN MEETING MARCH 25 AND REPORTED REF A. PRESENTATION TO COMMITTEE INVOLVES SOME DEALY IN CABINET CONSIDERATION AND ULTIMATE PRESENTATION TO ALP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. EXTENT OF DELAY IS UNCLEAR AT PRESENT.

2. IT MAY BE WORTH NOTING THAT MOST COMMENTATORS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT PRIME MINISTER ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL MORAL VICTORY OVER ALP LEFT WING IN GAINING APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO U. S. FACILITIES.

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IT IS ALSO POINTED OUT IN SOME CONTEXT THAT LEFT WING MEMBERS OF VICTORIAN ALP OF COURSE DO NOT REPRESENT NATIONAL ALP POSITION ON ANY PARTICULAR ISSUE, INCLUDING THAT OF U. S. FACILITIES AND OMEGA.

3. IN CONVERSATION MARCH 26 WITH DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD, I EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN MELBOURNE OPPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF OMEGA NAVIGATIONAL AID SYSTEM. BARNARD REPLIED, " DON' T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

GOUGH AND I ARE WORKING OUT SOMETHING ON THAT AND IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. I TOLD YOU SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THAT YOU NEED HAVE NO WORRY ON PINE GAP AND WOOMERA, AND I ASSURE YOU THAT GOUGH AND I WILL WORK OUT OMEGA."

4. EDITORIAL IN CANBERRA TIMES LAYS OPPOSITION TO OMEGA PRIMARILY AT DOOR OF ANTI- AMERICAN ELEMENTS IN ALP LEFT WING. IT SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF OMEGA STATION AS PART OF AUSTRALIAN- AMERICAN COOPERATION. NEWSPAPER AUSTRALIAN ON OTHER HAND, EXPRESSES OPPOSITION TO OMEGA ON EITHER/ OR BASIS, I. E. EITHER OMEGA IS A NUCLEAR TARGET, IN WHICH WE DO NOT WANT IT; OR IT IS NOT A NUCLEAR TARGET AND WE DON' T NEED IT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES NO MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION THAN TECHNIQUES ALREADY EMPLOYED. COPIES OF EDITORIALS BEING POUCHED.  
RICE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** MARR, AS, US  
**To:** EA  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA  
DIA  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005